



# DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

## OFFICE OF MINE RECLAMATION

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## California's Abandoned Mine Lands Program Fact Sheet Abandoned Mine Inventory and Remediation

### Field Inventories

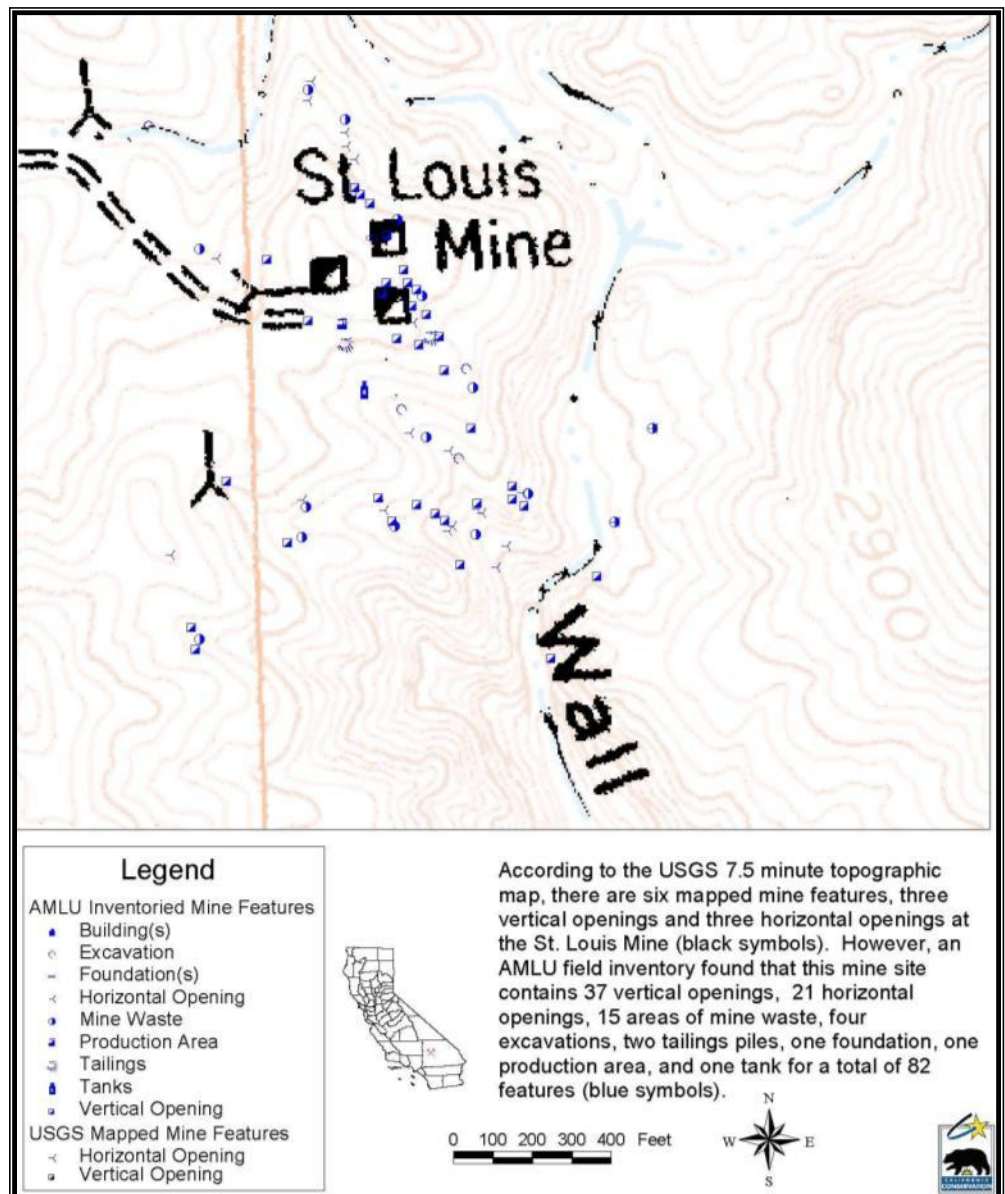
• The Department of Conservation's Abandoned Mine Lands Unit (AMLU) began cataloging California's abandoned mines in 1997 and in 2000 published *California's Abandoned Mines: A Report on the Magnitude and Scope of the Issue in the State*. A copy of the report is available at [www.consrv.ca.gov/omr/abandoned\\_mine Lands/AML\\_Report/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/omr/abandoned_mine Lands/AML_Report/Pages/index.aspx).

• Since 1997, the AMLU has inventoried more than **2,800** abandoned mine sites and **25,000** features (shafts, adits, etc.).

• To support its inventory work, the AMLU uses its **Topographically Occurring Mine Symbols (TOMS)** database, comprised of mine symbols scanned and digitized from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7½ minute topographical maps.

• The AMLU finds an average of 3.5 mine features per mapped symbol during field inventories. The number of features per symbol varies from site to site, as shown in the St. Louis Mine example to the right.

• For more information, including the TOMS database and a map of potential abandoned mine locations in California, visit the AMLU website at [www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned\\_mine Lands](http://www.consrv.ca.gov/OMR/abandoned_mine Lands).



## Remediations

● In 2001, the AMLU closed a hazardous abandoned mine shaft as a public safety demonstration project. In 2002, the AMLU began funding abandoned mine remediation projects in addition to its inventory work. By partnering with land-owning agencies and other entities, which typically contribute funds or in-kind services, the AMLU has leveraged State dollars by nearly 100%, remediating more hazards than it could with its own resources only. The AMLU's partners include those listed below.

### State Agencies

- California Conservation Corps
- California Department of Fish and Game
- California Department of Parks and Recreation
- California Department of Transportation
- California State Lands Commission

### Federal Agencies

- Bureau of Land Management
- Bureau of Reclamation
- National Park Service
- Office of Surface Mining
- U.S. Forest Service

### Local, Nonprofit, & Private Entities

- Bat Conservation International
- City of Vallejo
- Paradise Irrigation District
- Solano Land Trust
- Teichert
- Western States Trail Foundation

● Since 2006, the AMLU's primary funding to remediate physical hazards at abandoned mines is from a fee collected on gold and silver mined in California (\$5/ounce for gold; 10¢/ounce for silver).<sup>\*</sup> The AMLU has now helped to remediate hundreds of hazardous abandoned mine features, using the techniques listed below.

- Wire fences .....
- Backfills .....
- Closed with polyurethane foam (PUF) .....
- Fitted with bat-compatible gates, cupolas, or culverts .....
- Other (capped, hazardous debris removed, etc.) .....

**Total features remediated** (through June 18, 2009):

# Features Remediated		
2001-05	2006-09 (Gold & Silver Fee)	2001-09 (cumulative)
33	127	160
67	114	181
21	38	59
35	130	165
8	45	53
<b>164</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>618</b>



Fence, Imperial Co.



Backfill in progress, Mariposa Co.



PUF closure in progress, El Dorado Co.



Culvert gates, Inyo Co.



Bat gate in progress, Riverside Co.



Bat cupola, San Bernardino Co.

<sup>\*</sup> See Kuehl, Chapter 794, Statutes 2003; Public Resources Code § 2207(d)(4)(B).